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- TITLE BY DEVOLUTION OF POSSESSORY RIGHTS. *Anon.* 17 Madras L. J. 297. See *supra*.
- TRADE UNIONS, THE LEGAL STATUS OF, IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, WITH CONCLUSIONS APPLICABLE TO THE UNITED STATES. *Henry R. Seager*. Discussing both on authority and on principle the right to sue an unincorporated union. 22 Pol. Sci. Quar. 611.
- VENDOR AND PURCHASER. *Anon.* Maintaining that the vendor cannot sue before transfer is due for failure to pay advance instalments of the price. 27 Can. L. T. 725.

II. BOOK REVIEWS.

A SUPPLEMENT TO A TREATISE ON THE SYSTEM OF EVIDENCE IN TRIALS AT COMMON LAW. By John Henry Wigmore. Boston: Little, Brown and Company. 1907. pp. xiii, 459. 8vo.

In reviewing Wigmore on Evidence three years ago we said that use alone could be the final test of the value to the profession of such an original and monumental work (18 HARV. L. REV. 478). This test has already satisfied the profession of the permanent value of Professor Wigmore's work, which has become not merely the best but the only authority in general use in this country and in England. In our review of the original work we spoke of several valuable innovations in the art of law-book writing. This supplement is also such an innovation. The fact that in a little over three years two hundred and eighty-one large pages devoted almost entirely to notes should become necessary, shows the enormous importance of the subject and of the book, and indicates also the value of this new plan of issuing a supplementary volume to an original work.

In this supplement all the new cases during the last three years, amounting to about four thousand in number, and all the statutes passed in that time have been arranged in paragraphs under the original topic titles and with the original numbering. It is thus possible for one who is using Wigmore on Evidence, by a glance into the supplement, to add to the discussion contained in the original volumes all the new information which the author has to give as a result of later judicial discussion and legislative action.

Most of the matter in the supplement consists of additional notes. There are, however, in a few cases, new paragraphs added to the text. The longest and most important of these is section 2281a, entitled "Mode of Obtaining Immunity in Return for Self-Criminating Evidence." This section constitutes an addition of five pages to the former text. Another important new discussion is that upon the right to disprove the truth of a statement in a case where evidence has been offered simply to prove that the statement was made. This is new section 263. The point aroused great public interest when it was raised in the recent Thaw trial. The author's opinion is opposed to the ruling in the Thaw trial, although the weight of authority, as he states it, is very strongly against him.

In this supplement the author appears to have expressed his individual opinions with more force and freedom than he permitted himself in his original volumes. Compare, for instance, the picturesque language which he allows himself in commenting on recent decisions granting new trials for erroneous rulings on evidence—"The Saracenic invasion, led by Fanatic Technicality into the realms of Truth and Common Sense"—with his forceful but less imaginative language in section 21 of the first of the former volumes.

There is a new index, slightly longer than the earlier one, covering the four original volumes and the supplement.

J. H. B.

LAW: ITS ORIGIN, GROWTH, AND FUNCTION. By James Coolidge Carter. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1907. pp. vii, 355. 8vo. This volume contains thirteen lectures, which were prepared in order to be